

# Court Told Sukarno Not In '65 Coup

Reuters

DJAKARTA, Dec. 6 — **For-**

mer Air Force Chief Vice Marshal Omar Dhani told a military tribunal here today President Sukarno was not involved in last year's attempted Communist coup in Indonesia.

The 42-year-old officer went on trial here yesterday charged with complicity in the coup and paving the way for a Communist takeover. He faces a possible death sentence.

There had been speculation that Dhani would incriminate Sukarno in the Oct. 1, 1965 attempted coup d'etat. (The Washington Post carried on Associated Press report in late editions Tuesday saying dhani had implicated Sukarno.)

But Dhani, like former Foreign Minister Subandrio—now under sentence of death for treason—emphatically rejected suggestions that Sukarno was in any way responsible.

After admitting he backed the attempted coup, Dhani said, "I sent a letter to the president stating that the Air Force's involvement in the coup was my full responsibility."

Dhani did not explain why Sukarno was with him at Halim Air Force Base on the morning of the coup.

"I am not a child who likes to avoid responsibility by throwing it into others," Dhani said.

"I am confident that the President had no hand in this matter and the fact that he does not condemn the PKI (Indonesian Communist Party) is because the PKI was not behind the coup."

Dhani previously said the coup was not simply a Communist bid for power but a purge within the Army ranks to weed out what he called menhmen and lackeys of the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Dhani admitted he supported the Communists, but he maintained that the Communist putsch was only to forestall a coup by a right-wing

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT